

IN THE SOUTHEND COUNTY COURT

CLAIM No. 0BQ00819; 0BQ00930;
0BQ00931

BETWEEN

JOHN SHERIDAN
BARBARA O'BRIEN
JOHN FLYNN
MARY FLYNN

Appellants

-and-

BASILDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Respondent

—
WITNESS STATEMENT OF MARY
ANN McCARTHY
—

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Ref: TL/S1284/1

Solicitors for the Appellants

Deponent: Mary Ann McCarthy
1st witness statement
Date: 30 September 2010

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WITNESS STATEMENT OF MARY ANN McCARTHY

I, Mary Ann McCarthy, of 10 Camilla Drive, Dale Farm, Oak Lane, Cray's Hill, Essex, make the following statement:

1. I was initially involved in some of the consultations with Basildon District Council in relation to possible alternative land searches to the site currently at Dale Farm. My interest in the meetings was as a resident.
2. I attended around six or seven meetings, although I do not recall the dates or locations on which they took place. However, I do remember that one was held at the Town Hall, one was held at the Church Hall and some of the others were at private addresses.
3. The first big meeting took place at the home of an elder of the church.

Members of the Council attended and the chair was Malcolm Buckley. It was decided that we should arrange a series of smaller confidential meetings between the Council and those people who were selected to represent the Dale Farm community. We wanted to be consulted on the circumstances surrounding possible eviction and the identification of alternative sites

4. My recollection of what was discussed at the meetings was that it might be possible for the Council to identify sites outside of the Basildon District Council area, although I do not recall that specific sites were identified.
5. When the Homes and Communities Agency joined the meetings, they apparently made suggestions of possible government land which could be developed. I do not remember the location or name of this land. The land was not in use and could have been made into a Traveller's site with planning permission. Therefore, it was proposed that planning permission should be lodged so that the process was in motion.
6. I did not attend any further meetings after this and I do not know why Basildon District Council withdrew from the consultations.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true.

Signed

Mary Ann McCarthy

Dated